RCM London

# " ANY QUESTIONS "

1. What is the meaning of the expression "Playing by heart" and where did it originate?

2. Does the Panel not find it slightly alarming that artists' reputations should hang on the reviews of inexperienced critics?

3. Does the Panel consider the recent operas by Britten, Berkeley, Walton and Tippett to be serious contributions towards a new operatic medium? If so, will this establish a style of 20th. century English opera?

4. Would a Fancy Dress Ball (Russian costume) be a suitable way of celebrating Sir Thomas Beecham's eightieth birthday when it comes?

5. Give views on the suitability or otherwise of the Festival Hall, and suggest improvements.

6. Would the Panel agree that one hears much indifferent, not to say bad diction from many British singers, even in their own language, and do they think that production of tone is impossible without distorting vowels and neglecting consonants, resonants and explosives?

7. What is the opinion of the Panel on County Senior Music Grants given to children of the school-leaving age? It is said that some of these grants are too easily obtained, thus directing young people into training for an already over-crowded profession, in which the standard is very high, taking perhaps 3 or 4 valuable years which could be spent learning a profession more suited to their abilities. Is this true? If so, how can the position be rectified?

8. What in the Panel's opinion, are the essentials necessary for the success of a professional musician who has to earn a living and who strives to put artistry first?

9. Is it the Panel's opinion that Musical Criticism, as at present conducted in the London Press, is of any constructive value or help to living composers and performers?

10. Ought musicians to accept the glib counsel of despair that "there's no getting away from it - we live in a Noisy Age and we must just put up with it?" Or, ought they to regard noise as something vicious and destructive and therefore to be actively resisted?

11. How does one obtain an audition to get into Grand Opera?

12. In the opinion of the Panel, does the fact that faces must be photogenic on Television, imperil the standard of performance in musical programmes?

13. Have musicians become incapable of distinguishing between Music and Noise?

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14. (Emergency Question!) Does the Panel think that costume has any influence on musical appreciation? The questioner has wondered from recent concert attendances, if she would have enjoyed the modern music more, had she arrayed herself in drain-pipe trousers, with a horse-tail hanging over one shoulder??